

UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

OF

Sang Rim SHIN

FOR

**METHOD FOR PERFORMING CELL BROADCASTING
AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM USING THE SAME**

[0001] This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application No. 09/576,052 filed on May 23, 2000, which claims priority to Korean Patent Application No. 31610/1999 filed July 31, 1999, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to cell broadcasting in a communication system, and more particularly, to a method for the cell broadcasting of short messages in a 3GPP communication system, in which a new schedule message scheme is adopted.

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Discussion of the Related Art

[0003] Short message service (SMS) is a service provided by a network for the transmission of alphanumeric messages to a mobile station, i.e., a user equipment (UE), which may "receive" a short message even in an idle state. The short message may be initiated by a cellular telephone, an information service, or the network itself and may
15 include such information as that for email notification, voicemail notification, cellular messaging teleservice, or cellular paging teleservice.

[0004] Standards for SMS technology include IS-637 for a CDMA environment and IS-95 and J-STD-008 for a radio environment. In the CDMA environment, a service center provides short messages, which are received by a base station from a core
20 network and are transmitted from the base station to a mobile station through a control channel, i.e., a paging channel. In the radio environment, a global system for mobile communications, known as the GSM system, supports a cell broadcasting of short

messages, whereby SMS cell broadcasting (SMSCB) messages are broadcast over at least one cell from a public land mobile network to one or more mobile stations.

[0005] Referring to FIG. 1, a 3GPP communication system consists of a UE system, a network (UTRAN) system, and a core system (not shown). The UE and UTRAN systems utilize bidirectional channels, i.e., an uplink and a downlink, and each system includes a higher layer, a radio resource control (RRC) layer corresponding to layer 3, a radio link control (RLC) layer and a media access control (MAC) layer corresponding to layer 2, and a physical (PHY) layer corresponding to layer 1.

[0006] The physical layer provides a plurality of transmission channel types to the MAC layer, which in turn provides a plurality of logical channel types to the RLC layer. The transmission channels are either common channels or dedicated channels depending on the mode of transmission on a radio link, and the logical channels are either control channels or traffic channels depending on whether the data transmission service provided by the MAC layer to the RLC layer is transmitting control data or user data. In addition, the physical layer performs the encoding/decoding and multiplexing/demultiplexing of transmission channels and the modulation/demodulation and spreading/despreading of physical channels, performs chip, bit, slot & frame synchronization, controls transmit power and transmission rate, and performs frequency processing and error detection and correction.

[0007] The RLC layer receives from the higher layer a message corresponding to a service selected by a user, and the RRC layer controls a logical connection of the lower layers, i.e., the RLC, MAC, and physical layers, which provide the services selected at the higher layer. To this end, the RRC layer is respectively connected to each of the lower

layers by a service access point (not shown in FIG. 1) through which primitives are transmitted and received for controlling the RRC layer. The RRC layer thus confirms, maintains, and releases the logical connections and assigns, reconstructs, and releases radio resources for each connection.

5 [0008] Upon receiving a service message from the higher layer, the RLC layer controls the radio link with a corresponding system, i.e., the UE or UTRAN system. In doing so, the RLC layer divides (segments) and reconstructs the received service message, compresses the RLC header, and performs concatenation, padding, error correction, flow control, and transmission of capsulated data units, i.e., one or more frames. The MAC
10 layer receives the capsulated data units from the RLC layer and, based on the compressed header, constructs MAC data units.

 [0009] FIGS. 2 and 3 respectively show message schemes according to GSM standards, each for the cell broadcasting of the short messages, where an SMS-BC message is diagrammed in FIG. 2 and a schedule message is diagrammed in FIG. 3. The SMS-BC
15 message is comprised of 88 octets, each field of the message being comprised of one or more octets, to include the message content preceded by a serial number field, a message identifier field, a data coding scheme field, and a page parameter field designating a total number of pages. The schedule message is similarly comprised of octets and includes
20 fields for type, start slot number, end slot number, new SMS-BC message bitmap, new SMS-BC message description, other message descriptions.

 [0010] Cell broadcasting of an SMS message as above is performed in the GSM system according to one of two modes, i.e., a discontinuous reception (DRX) mode or a non-discontinuous reception (non-DRX) mode, according to the type of short message

being transmitted from the higher layer. In the DRX mode, the UE uses the schedule message to read the SMSCB message, but only when a desired SMSCB message is renewed, and ignores all other message data. In the non-DRX mode, the UE reads all frames, i.e., all data units transmitted on the radio link, to read any desired SMSCB message without the information of a schedule message, by classifying each SMSCB message as desired or undesired based on their respective headers.

[0011] The SMSCB message and schedule message as above are adapted to the GSM system, where no message may exceed 88 octets, where the length of a SMSCB message may not exceed fifteen pages, and where each message must be accompanied by a header for each page. Further adaptation, however, is needed to apply the short message service of the CDMA environment or the SMS cell broadcasting of the GSM environment to a third-generation mobile communication (3GPP) system where macro message transmission is expected and where global roaming service is desired. Particularly, a suitable technical specification for SMS cell broadcasting is required for the 3GPP system, which is based on the core network of the GSM system and radio access technology.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0012] Accordingly, the present invention is directed to a method for performing cell broadcasting, and to a communication system using the same, that substantially obviates one or more of the problems due to limitations and disadvantages of the related art.

[0013] An object of the present invention, which has been devised to solve the foregoing problems, lies in providing a method for performing cell broadcasting and a communication system using the same, by which short messages of unlimited length are broadcast in a 3GPP system.

5 [0014] Additional features and advantages of the invention will be set forth in the description which follows, and in part will be apparent to those having ordinary skill in the art upon examination of the following or may be learned from a practice of the invention. The objectives and other advantages of the invention will be realized and attained by the subject matter particularly pointed out in the specification and claims
10 hereof as well as in the appended drawings.

[0015] To achieve these objects and other advantages in accordance with the present invention, as embodied and broadly described herein, there is provided a method for performing cell broadcasting, comprising steps of receiving in a mobile station at least one data unit of a short message service cell broadcasting (SMSCB) message broadcast
15 from at least one cell of a communication system; and reading the SMSCB message based on a schedule message comprised of a plurality of fields for informing the mobile station of a location of the SMSCB message, a length of a schedule period, and whether a new SMSCB message has been broadcast. The schedule message further comprises fields for informing the mobile station of a location of a next schedule message and for informing
20 the mobile station of at least one of a start frame and an end frame of the schedule period, and a media access control (MAC) header comprising a first field and a second field. The first field of the MAC header indicates whether the at least one data unit is to be mapped to one of a common logical channel of the MAC layer or a dedicated logical

channel of the MAC layer; and the second field of the MAC header indicates whether the at least one data unit is to be mapped to one of a common control channel of the MAC layer or a common traffic channel of the MAC layer.

[0016] In the present invention, cell broadcasting is achieved by transmitting and
5 receiving an SMSCB message. In the transmission stage, a UTRAN-MAC-c entity performs steps of scheduling the SMSCB message; multiplexing, at a lower layer in a communication system, a common traffic channel with a common control channel, a dedicated traffic channel, and a dedicated control channel, wherein the common traffic channel and the common control channel are common logical channels and the dedicated
10 traffic channel and the dedicated control channel are dedicated logical channels; and transmitting a schedule message through the common traffic channel. In the reception stage, a UE-MAC-c entity performs steps of receiving the schedule message; demultiplexing, at a lower layer in the communication system, a common traffic channel with a common control channel, a dedicated traffic channel, and a dedicated control
15 channel, wherein the common traffic channel and the common control channel are common logical channels and the dedicated traffic channel and the dedicated control channel are dedicated logical channels; and reading the SMSCB message based on the schedule message. The present invention also provides a system for performing cell broadcasting, comprising the above UTRAN-MAC-c and UE-MAC-c entities.

20 [0017] It is to be understood that both the foregoing explanation and the following detailed description of the present invention are exemplary and illustrative and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0018] The accompanying drawings, which are included to provide a further understanding of the invention and are incorporated in and constitute a part of this application, illustrate embodiment(s) of the invention and together with the description
5 serve to explain the principle of the invention. In the drawings:

[0019] FIG. 1 is simplified block diagram of an air interface in a 3GPP system;

[0020] FIG. 2 is a diagram of an SMSCB message according to GSM standards;

[0021] FIG. 3 is a diagram of a schedule message according to GSM standards;

[0022] FIG. 4 is a diagram of an SMS message according to the present invention;

10 [0023] FIG. 5 is a diagram of a schedule message according to the present invention;

[0024] FIG. 6 is a diagram of a MAC header of a schedule message according to the present invention;

[0025] FIG. 7 is a diagram illustrating SMSCB transmission according to the
15 present invention;

[0026] FIG. 8 is a diagram of a UE-MAC layer according to the present invention;
and

[0027] FIG. 9 is a diagram of a UTRAN-MAC layer according to the present invention.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[0028] Reference will now be made in detail to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

[0029] Each technical area of a third-generation mobile communication system or 3GPP system is described in a corresponding technical specification group, such as the first working group (WG1) or the second working group (WG2), each of which are directed to a radio access network. WG1 suggests a general technology for a physical layer or Layer 1, while WG2 defines a data link layer (layer 2 of FIG. 1) and a network layer (layer 3 of FIG. 1), which are higher than the physical layer, as second and third radio layers, respectively.

[0030] The present invention, which is an improvement of the SMS technology for the data link layer and the network layer, uses SMSCB messages and schedule messages as shown in FIGS. 4 and 5, respectively. The schemes of the messages according to the present invention differ from those shown in FIGS. 2 and 3.

[0031] As shown in FIG. 4, the SMSCB message is comprised of any number x octets, each field of the message being comprised of one or more octets, to include the message content preceded by a serial number field, a message identifier field, a data coding scheme field, and a page parameter field designating a total number of pages. The message identifier field indicates the message type and source, identifying the message as, for example, weather data, stock prices, or a traffic report. As shown in FIG. 5, in addition to known fields of a typical schedule message according to 3GPP standards, the schedule message according to the present invention includes a MAC header, a field indicating SMSCB message length, a field indicating the start and end frames of the schedule period for the SMSCB message, and a field indicating the presence of a new SMSCB message.

[0032] The MAC header is shown in FIG. 6 and includes a C/D field and a C/T field. The C/D field indicates whether a data unit is to be mapped to a common logical channel or a dedicated logical channel, and the C/T field indicates whether the data unit is to be mapped to a common control channel or a common traffic channel. If the C/T field indicates that the data unit is to be mapped to the common traffic channel, the field also indicates whether the data unit belongs to the SMSCB message or to the schedule message.

[0033] The length indicator of the schedule message of FIG. 5 indicates the length of the SMSCB message and can be used to extend the length of an SMSCB message to any number of successive frames. The next two fields respectively indicate the start and end points of successive frame periods of the SMSCB message. After the completion of one SMSCB message – however long – a new SMSCB message would be indicated by the new SMSCB message indicator field, which also indicates the start frame of the renewed message.

[0034] As above, the SMSCB message according to the present invention is repeatable and renewable and can be read selectively. Moreover, the number of pages of the message contents and overall message length are not limited to the 88 octets of the message schemes of FIGS. 2 and 3. Therefore, the total number of pages and the number of pages of content are unlimited. Furthermore, the SMSCB message of the present invention, once transmitted from an application layer (a higher layer) through the RLC layer of the second radio layer (Layer 2), is segmented into a plurality of data units of four frames each, according to any message length. The MAC layer, which is a lower layer than the RLC layer, performs scheduling of the SMSCB message and attaches to the

schedule message a header indicative of the length of the schedule message. This scheduling is in contrast to the GSM system where the RLC layer performs the scheduling and header attachment functions as well as SMSB message segmentation. The MAC layer of the present invention generates and decodes the schedule message, such that the
5 schedule message is a MAC message written as a protocol data unit corresponding to the MAC control protocol.

[0035] Rather than setting a fixed period, a schedule message according to the method of the present invention determines the schedule of the SMSB message. That is, a current schedule message contains location information for a next schedule message,
10 thus notifying the UE of its location.

[0036] The method for performing short message service according to the present invention will now be described.

[0037] As in the case of the GSM system, the SMSB message in a 3GPP system is also received by a UE in either the DRX mode or the non-DRX mode, according to the
15 type of short message being transmitted from the higher layer.

[0038] In the non-DRX mode, the UE reads all frames, i.e., all data units transmitted on the radio link, to read all SMSB messages, and thereby any desired SMSB message, without the information of a schedule message. In reading the frames, the UE reads the SMSB message header so that the user can select a desired message.

20 [0039] In the DRX mode, to read a desired SMSB message from the UTRAN, the UE must know exactly when each SMSB message is transmitted from a given cell of the network. Therefore, the schedule message is used. The UE knows whether the SMSB message has been renewed by reading the schedule message of FIG. 5 and

thereby reading the new SMSCB message indicator field contained therein. Also, the start frame and end frame fields indicate the schedule period for the SMSCB message and thereby indicate successive frames where the renewed message is located. Accordingly, when the desired SMSCB message of the UE is renewed for the schedule period, the UE
5 can read messages of the corresponding frame using the schedule message.

[0040] Referring to FIG. 7, illustrating SMSCB transmission according to the present invention, a schedule message contains a message identifier and location information for the segmented SMSCB message and location information for the next schedule message. The UE reads the schedule message and is thereby enabled to read a
10 desired SMSCB message.

[0041] FIGS. 8 and 9 illustrate a UE-MAC layer and a UTRAN-MAC layer according to the present invention, respectively. Here, the SMSCB message transmitted from the higher layer is transmitted to a common traffic channel among common logical channels.

15 [0042] The MAC layer multiplexes the common traffic channel with a common control channel (i.e., a common logical channel), a dedicated traffic channel (i.e., a dedicated logical channel), and a dedicated control channel. Then, scheduling for the SMS cell broadcasting is performed.

[0043] The MAC layer provides data transmission services through the logical
20 channels to the RLC layer, which is a higher layer. The logical channels as provided are determined according to the type of information transmitted from the higher layer and may be either a control channel or a traffic channel. In other words, the logical channel type varies according to the data transmission service provided from the higher layer, such

that a control channel is provided when control plane information is transmitted and a traffic channel is provided when user plane information is transmitted.

[0044] The control channel includes a dedicated control channel and a common control channel, which are bidirectional channels for transmitting information between the UE and the UTRAN. The dedicated control channel transmits dedicated control information and is established by the RRC layer, which is higher than the MAC layer. The common control channel transmits common control information and is commonly used by a plurality of UEs when the UTRAN does not access the RRC layer.

[0045] The traffic channel includes a dedicated traffic channel and a common traffic channel. The dedicated traffic channel is a channel assigned to the UE and exists as both a downlink and an uplink, to transmit user information. The common traffic channel is a unidirectional channel for transmitting user information to specific user groups or to all UEs.

[0046] If scheduling for the SMS cell broadcasting is performed after multiplexing the logical channels, the UTRAN-MAC layer can identify a frame where the data transmitted to each logical channel is transmitted. The MAC layer generates the schedule message for transmission of the SMSCB message, so that the UE can identify a frame where the renewed SMSCB message in the DRX mode is located. The UTRAN-MAC layer performs channel multiplexing and scheduling while the UE-MAC layer performs channel demultiplexing.

[0047] A forward access channel is assigned to the physical layer, which is a lower layer, for transmission of the SMSCB message. The forward access channel is a common downlink channel used to transmit relatively small amounts of data.

[0048] The type of data, and the mode of its transmission, are determining factors in the physical layer. The schedule message, which is transmitted from the UTRAN-MAC layer to the UE-MAC layer, enables the UE to assemble information to construct the SMS CB message.

5 [0049] In the method for performing cell broadcasting and a communication system using the same according to the present invention, the scheduling function is performed in the UTRAN-MAC layer, which then transmits a schedule message to the UE-MAC layer through a radio link. Accordingly, short messages of any length are enabled, and SMS cell broadcasting in a 3GPP system is achieved.

10 [0050] It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made in the present invention without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention. Thus, it is intended that the present invention cover such modifications and variations provided they come within the scope of the appended claims and their equivalents.

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